

142: A GATHERING

SKYBOUND

THE WALKING DEAD

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN



IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD

TM

ROBERT KIRKMAN

Creator, Writer

CHARLIE ADLARD

Penciler, Cover

STEFANO GAUDIANO

Inker

CLIFF RATHBURN

Gray Tones

RUS WOOTON

Letterer

SEAN MACKIEWICZ

Editor

DAVE STEWART

Cover Colors

For Skybound
Entertainment



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Michael Williamson
assistant editor

Dan Petersen
operations manager

Sarah Effinger
office manager

Nick Palmer
operations coordinator

Lizzy Iverson
administrative assistant

Stephan Murillo
administrative assistant

International inquiries: foreign@skybound.com
Licensing inquiries: contact@skybound.com

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Meredith Wallace
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Addison Duke
production artist

Vincent Kukua
production artist

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production artist

Tricia Ramos
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Emilio Bautista
sales assistant

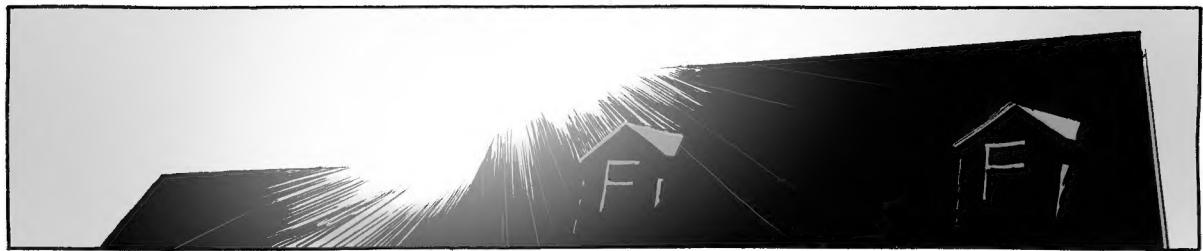
Jessica Ambriz
administrative assistant

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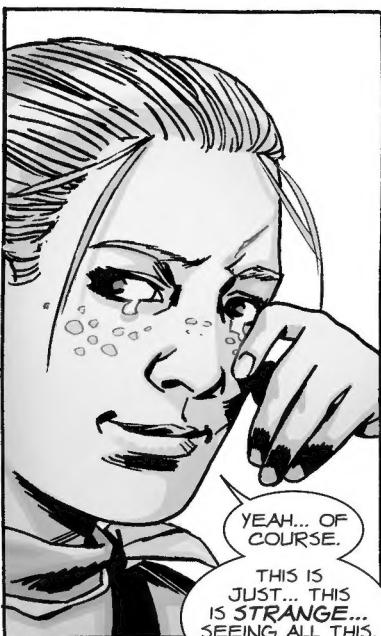
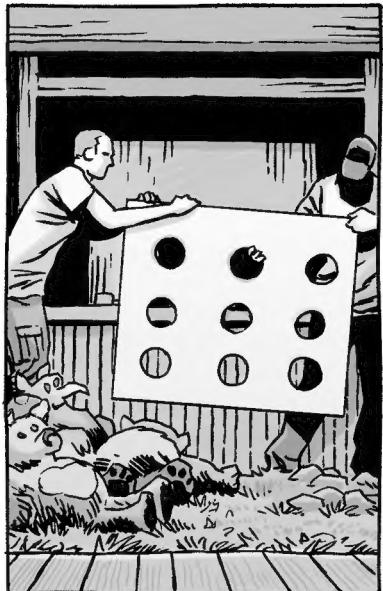
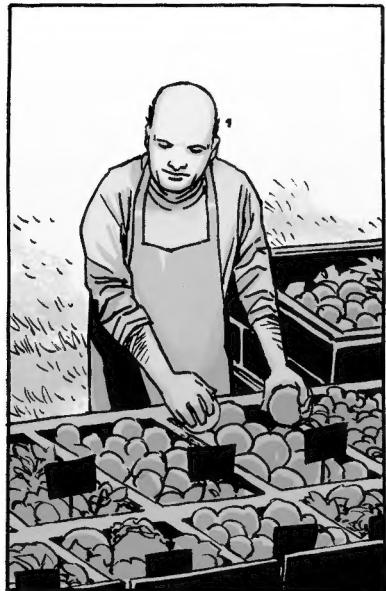




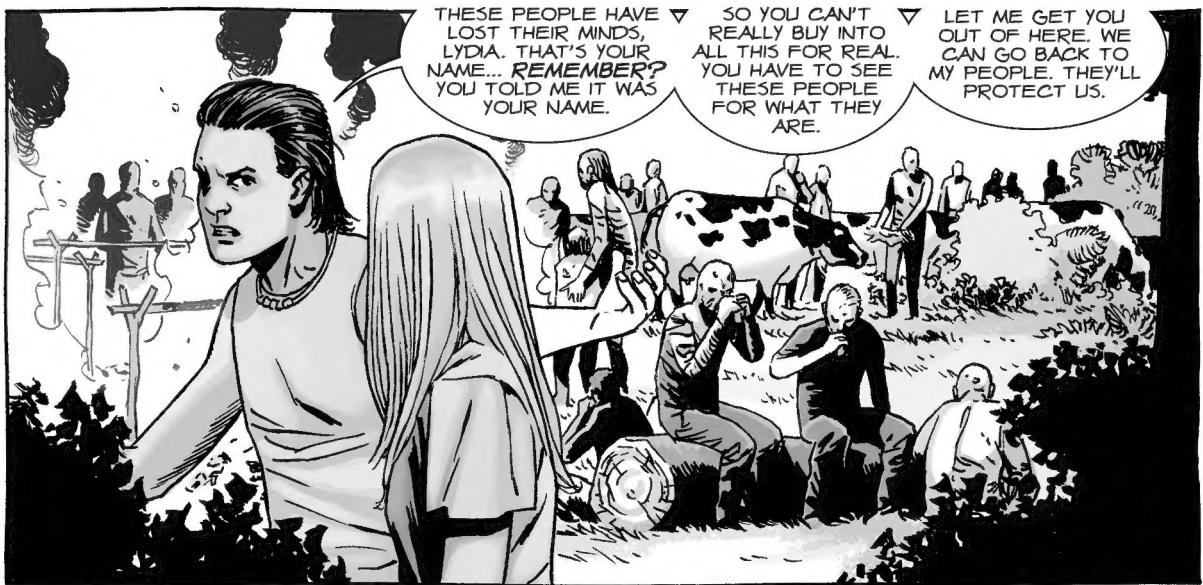
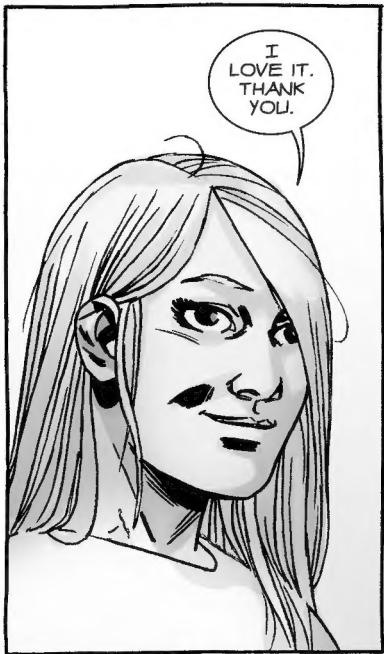
OH, YEAH.
SO FAR SO
GOOD.

TOMORROW
IS GOING TO
BE *CRAZY*.











I HAD HOPED
THAT BY SHOWING
YOU HOW WE LIVE AND
WHAT WE DO, YOU'D
UNDERSTAND WHO WE
ARE AND CARRY OUR
MESSAGE BACK TO
YOUR PEOPLE... THAT
WE ARE TO BE
LEFT ALONE.

NOT WHILE LYDIA IS IN
DANGER.

WHAT
DANGER
WOULD
THAT BE?

YOU
CAN CALL
YOURSELF
WHATEVER YOU
WANT. YOU'RE
STILL HER
MOTHER, AND I
THINK YOU KNOW
EXACTLY WHAT
I'M TALKING
ABOUT.

IT IS
UNAVOIDABLE.

I MUST
LEARN MORE
ABOUT YOUR
PEOPLE...









HOW LONG AGO WAS THIS? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME IMMEDIATELY?!



THERE WAS A LOT ON MY PLATE. I COULDN'T MAKE IT HERE UNTIL TODAY. I CAME TO YOU ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.



A LOT ON YOUR PLATE?!



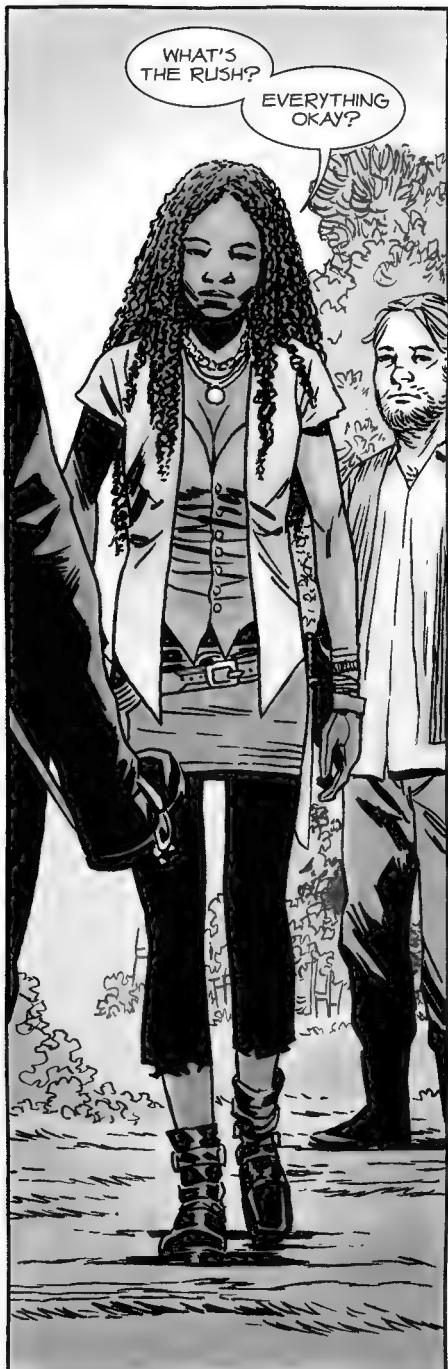
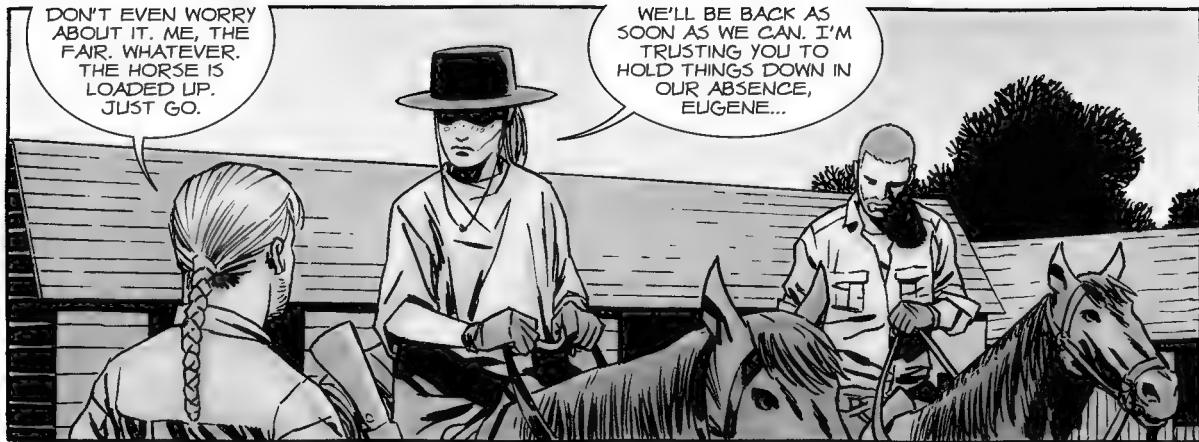
OKAY, YEAH. I'M SORRY. I'M JUST... I'M A LITTLE OVERWHELMED RIGHT NOW.

I NEED TO TALK TO ANDREA... I NEED TO...



I NEED TO GO AFTER HIM.





DANTE IS GOING TO GO WITH YOU. HE KNOWS THE AREA.

I FOLLOWED THE TRAIL PRETTY FAR. I KNOW WHERE WE'LL NEED TO GO.

WHY DID YOU GIVE UP LAST TIME?

THESE PEOPLE ARE DANGEROUS, AND THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM. THEY HELD ME CAPTIVE FOR A WHILE.

THEY CAN BE ANYWHERE, THEY BLEND IN WITH THE DEAD... YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING ATTACKED BY A SMALL GROUP OF ROAMERS... AND THEN GUYS START TRYING TO STAB YOU.

ALSO, THEIR LEADER WAS VERY CLEAR ANY MORE INTERACTION IS UNWELCOME. WE'RE TAKING A HUGE RISK GOING INTO THEIR LAND. WE COULD BE STARTING SOMETHING.

ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE US, OR NOT?

I'M SCARED SHITLESS, AND I DON'T WANT A DAMN THING IN RETURN... BUT I DO WANT YOU TO KNOW I'M ONLY DOING THIS FOR YOU.

NOTED... AND APPRECIATED...

MAYBE YOU'RE NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL.

THANK YOU, MISS GREENE. I'LL CARRY THAT SMILE WITH ME ON MY JOURNEY.



IT'S AMAZING THAT THEY'VE CLEARED THIS AREA ENOUGH THAT ALL THIS CAN TAKE PLACE ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE WALL. WHERE ARE CONNIE AND KELLY? THEY HAVE TO SEE THIS.

PROBABLY OFF SOMEWHERE, FUCKING.

YOU REALLY HAD NO IDEA?

KELLY'S HAD A THING FOR CONNIE EVER SINCE HE MET HER. YOU REALLY NEVER CAUGHT ON?



I REALLY JUST DON'T HAVE AN EYE FOR THAT SORT OF THING.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

C'MON, THERE'S A GUY UP HERE SELLING KETTLE CORN. THIS PLACE IS INSANE.



YOU MADE ALL THESE?

I HAVE A COUPLE APPRENTICES... THEY HELP A LOT WITH THE EATING UTENSILS... I PREFER SPEARHEADS AND SWORDS... THAT'S THE FUN STUFF.

THAT STUFF, I SAVE FOR MYSELF... MOSTLY.



YEAH... I'M FROM THE HILLTOP, THAT'S WHERE ALL MY SMITHING EQUIPMENT IS. IT'S BUILT AROUND THE BARRINGTON HOUSE... THEY HAD A BLACKSMITH AREA SET UP OUT FRONT FOR TOURISTS.

IT WAS ALWAYS A HOBBY OF MINE... MY STUFF WASN'T QUITE SO ANTIQUE, THOUGH.

WHICH COMMUNITY DO YOU LIVE IN?

UH...

THIS ONE... BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE VERY LONG...

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Oh jeezus... OH jeezus... what is SHE doing there?

Yeah, that's crazy. What could happen next?! Oh, I know... a letters column!

EXCITING!

Holy fucking fuck, my wait is finally fucking over. Just what we fucking needed, MORE NEGAN!! I just finished issue 140 (can you tell?) and I can not wait to see where this is going to go. You know how they made Better Call Saul to show how Saul became Saul? I would abso-fucking-lutely read a comic about how Negan became fucking Negan. I'll be counting down the days until 141!

PS. Is it strange how much I fucking love such an evil villain?

Jordan Mrozek
Calgary, Alberta

Call up AMC, let's make it happen. But what's the show called then, Motherfucking with Negan? Fuck You, Watch Me? Cock of the Walk(ing Dead)?

Sean. Yeesh.

Oh, that's right. You only like titles with one word in them. So, "Negan" it is.

Dear team of reasons for me to continue living, I have a few questions for you to clear up for me if you can, firstly, do you think that Robert or Charlie should pay for a new I pad, as I dropped mine in shock when I saw what Olivia did with Negan's cell door?

No. Not because they're not generous, but you sound like the type that will probably do it again. You've probably dropped your phone in the toilet before, right?

Also, I don't believe you...

Secondly, is Negan capable of curtailing his urge towards lawful evil, perhaps with a chance of becoming a sergeant at arms of the local police force?

No fucking way Rick gives him that chance, right?

Finally, why is Negan nowhere to be seen in the tv show, is it because non comic readers don't deserve access to such fascinating characters with so much room for development that they would be wasted on the washed masses?

TV show's not at that point yet. We still haven't even seen Heath or Jesus or Gregory. Patience, my dude.

Exactly.

Did I emphasise just how highly myself and everyone I've told think of your collective genius? Because if I haven't, I'm doing a disservice.

Never stop, the dead should walk forever!

Regards
Shabazz

I'm assuming that last comment is for Sean. Your praise is WAY off base.

To Kirkman and team,

I have been reading the comics since issue # 1 and through all the story lines I have wondered how would I react in the Zombie Apocalypse? My girlfriend and I have have talked about this since we also watch the show, and I have one lingering question that may or may have not been touched on. What happens to people of the Prozac nation. Since every one in one way of another are prescribed one thing or another, where are all the ADHD, ADD, obsessive compulsives in the world? In my book these are the people who would adapt differently and possibly end up running certain things. At least I would!

Prozac Nation Citizen
Bobby V

Frankly, the "I need medication, we need to go on a mission to get it" is such a contrived post-apocalyptic story piece that's done over and over... I've actually avoided medicated people for pretty much the entire run.

Which makes no sense... but it is what it is.

Hey what's up guys,

From the way Rick and Michonne talk about the fair it seems like its happening soon, also the cover for 142 kinda looks like the fair. But back in 127 when Andrea and Rosita are talking to Saddiq about construction, she says the fair is two months away still.

There's no way its already been two months since 127, more like a week or two at most. So, like, what's up with that? Just an error, or am I missing something?

By the way, love what your doing with that fucker Negan! And bring back Dwight!

Stevie

It's been two months. It takes time to travel, stuff like that.

Yeah... time passes without people saying "it's been two days since" or "man, yesterday was boring, nothing happened." We just skip "yesterday" when it's boring.

Did Olivia just insinuate Negan has a small dick?

Is that what the war was all about?

Ethan Tompkins

Isn't that what all wars are about?

Nice work, Sean.

Loving the new storyline and can't wait to see where you take Alpha!

Negan gets out of jail and it's because the locking mechanism didn't work properly, ummmmmmm ok. What was second choice; having him reel in the key to the cell Brady Bunch Ghost Town style??? Was expecting something a little more to it than that but regardless I am eagerly awaiting the next issue!

Kudos!

Patrick Ray
West Hartford, CT

We could have had him dangling a chicken bone for a dog...

I am writing this fan mail on behalf of all the fans who are piecing this together. You are turning them into pirates. Boats, Carl's eyepatch, Rick's hook hand. Why didn't you leave Dale with the peg leg?

Brady

Too obvious. Didn't want to give the game away so soon.

Yeargh... they be onto me.

Hey,

In what fucking way is Gregory more dangerous than Negan in that he has to be killed but Negan doesn't?

I call bullshit.

Josh from New Brunswick, Canada

Different leaders, different decisions. We'll just have to see how it affects Rick and Maggie's relationship down the line.

People supported and trust Gregory. Negan has lost all support. No one backs him or thinks he shouldn't be in jail.

It's pretty simple.

Hi Walking Dead People!

First time writer here, so I might as well say how much I love the comic, I've been happily collecting them since the Larger World arc issue by issue. So, here's a few questions.

How do the Whisperers keep cattle alive? Even if they're disguised as roamers, wouldn't the real ones go for animals anyway?

Not if they keep the roamers away.

Also, what's the deal with the Carson brothers? I might just be missing something here, but I never really understood why one of them was with Negan and one of them was at the Hilltop. Did Negan take one of them away from the Hilltop or something?

Keep doing you,
Cal
Cincinnati, Ohio

That's exactly what happened. Negan liked non-doctor Carson... and made him his assistant. Did I never get around to explaining that in the book? Damn.

Hey guys,

I had a couple questions to run by you,
1. Eugene is one of my favorite characters! He is the ideal apocalyptic nerd! But we haven't heard from him since he discovered Rosita was pregnant. How is Eugene going to deal with this? Will he ever figure out who the father is? What kind of dad is he going to be? Is he going to be able to care for the kid, or freak out every time it spits up?

More on Eug very soon.

2. What's going on with Father Gabriel? I love how he brings a religious aspect to the series, but he hasn't done much. Can we expect more from him in future issues?

Yes.

3. How have the Saviors changed since Negan's capture? Have they improved under Dwight's leadership?

Apparently, they're still a bunch of weirdos. Just not aggressively so. More like, "Do we HAVE to invite them to the fair?"

Thanks guys,
Bradley Franks

Yeah, we'll see the Sanctuary and more of the Saviors very soon.

Dudes,

I've spent an inordinate amount of time worrying about the agricultural economy of Alexandria, Hilltop, etc. Tell me, Robert, have you put any thought to this? As far as I can tell the communities have basically large kitchen gardens. Vegetables are super inefficient - barley, wheat, sorgum, etc are what civilization was built on.

This isn't a huge issue, except for the fact that all the farming seems to be going on inside each communities' walls. Obviously there's some wheat being milled, but with such a small area no more than one acre could be devoted to growing wheat. Assuming that they are using vaguely modern seeds and crop rotation methods, they still can't be making much better than a 4 to 1 crop yield. That's only about 300 lbs flour/year. Just ignoring the limited land issue, with that sort of production something like ~80% of a community needs to be engaged in agriculture in order to support Sutton, Rick, the riders, and all the other specialists. Even allowing for seas teeming with fish and Michonne angling her butt off, there would still need to be a huge amount of real farming going on.

Don't jump on me for pedantry! Rick is obsessed with rebuilding civilization (and the Whisperers are direct foils to that). Daniel Webster said, "where tillage begins, other arts follow. Farmers are therefore the founders of human civilization." Without real agriculture, Rick's project is as doomed to the primitive as were the aborigines of Australia.

Harry
Denver

ps And even if the communities are producing sufficient food, they're still all doomed to unequal/feudal society. Equality rationing doesn't allow the surplus needed to outfit warriors. And specialists like Sutton or Eugene will be able to demand extra resources if they wise up.

I love letters like these, so don't expect me to attack you. I've put a lot of thought into how they're getting by and what exactly they're doing... but an issue all about farming isn't exactly going to go well.

Just like the fair is happening outside the walls (which is how Alpha was able to just slip in), more and more there will be other things outside the walls of the various communities... that would include large areas of farm land.

Greetings:

Having grown up in a beach town in Maryland I have a few zombie vs. ocean questions.

1. Waves can be very loud and a fog horn can be heard for miles. Since zombies are attracted to noise and an undertow is a powerful thing , is the ocean full of zombies?

Heh. Stay tuned.

2. Shiva could live off zombie flesh so I'm guessing ocean animals can as well? How much of the brain must a crab eat before the zombie ceases to function?

Exactly 64%.

3. Does the fishing boat ever haul in a zombie along with the catch?

All the time.

My non-ocean question is this. The folks living in this zombie invested world all seem to have remarkably clear skin. You would think the stress alone would cause a break out. Is this a clue to the origin of the zombie virus? An experiment to cure unsightly blemishes that went really wrong?

You're onto me. Also, Charlie Adlard has a bias toward clear skinned people.

And finally, I'm sure you're a big headline event down in San Diego but could you do something special for us Thursday /Friday morning comic-con people. Please don't let those weekend F-wads have all the fun.

Thank you for all the good times.
Jeff D. Wolf
Santa Monica, CA

Don't worry, Skybound will be well represented every day of SDCC. Check Skybound.com for signing, panel and exclusives updates. It's going to be a packed event for all of us, and we'll try not to disappoint any of you... whether you're a weekday or weekend F-wad.

We'll be back in two weeks. Go ride your bikes or whatever until then.

-Sean Mackiewicz

Or skateboard... that's cool, too. But fuck roller skates. See you soon!

-Robert Kirkman

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE!



THE WALKING DEAD #143
ON SALE JUNE 2015



MYTHIC #3
ON SALE JUNE

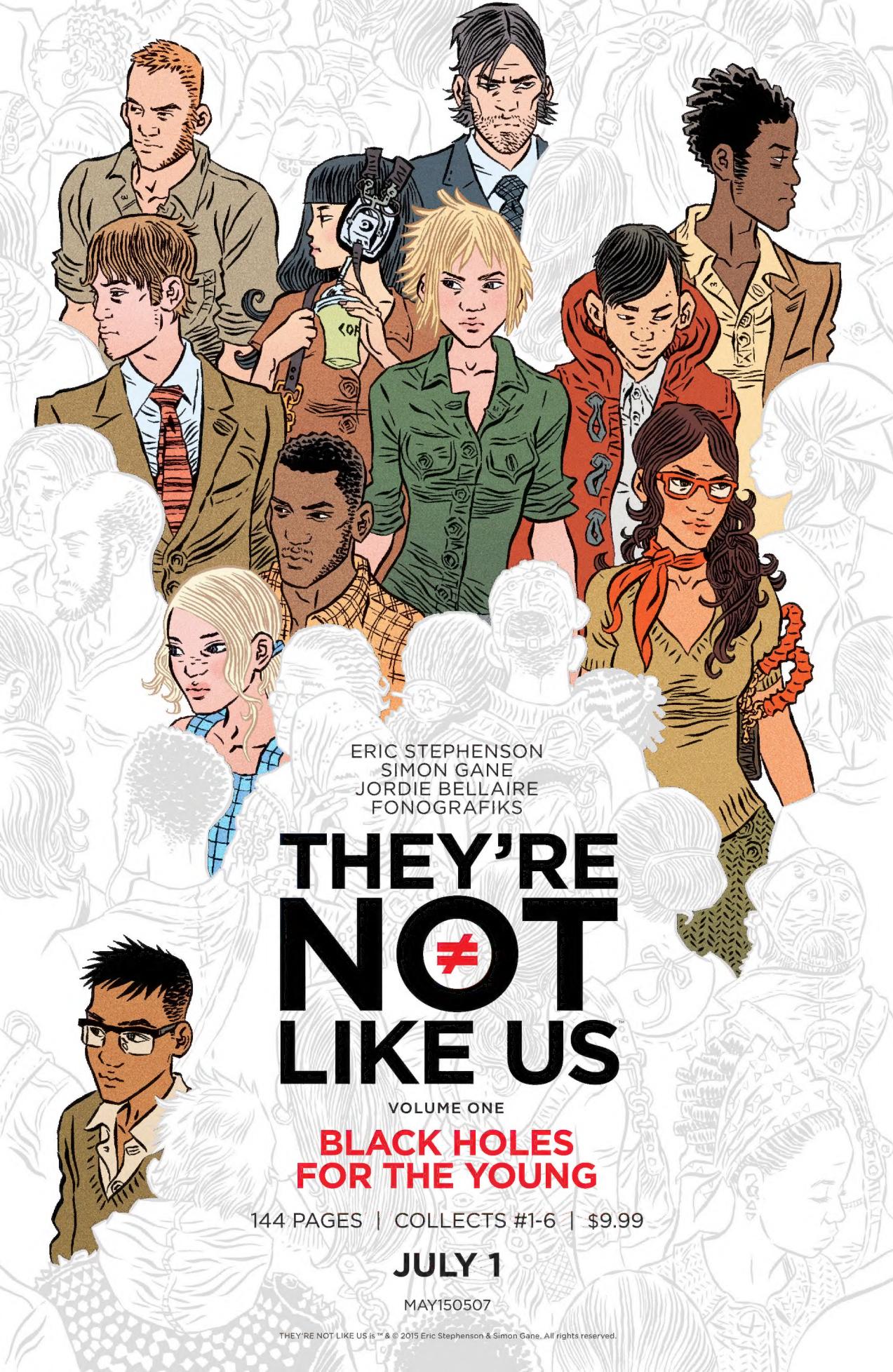


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ON SALE JUNE



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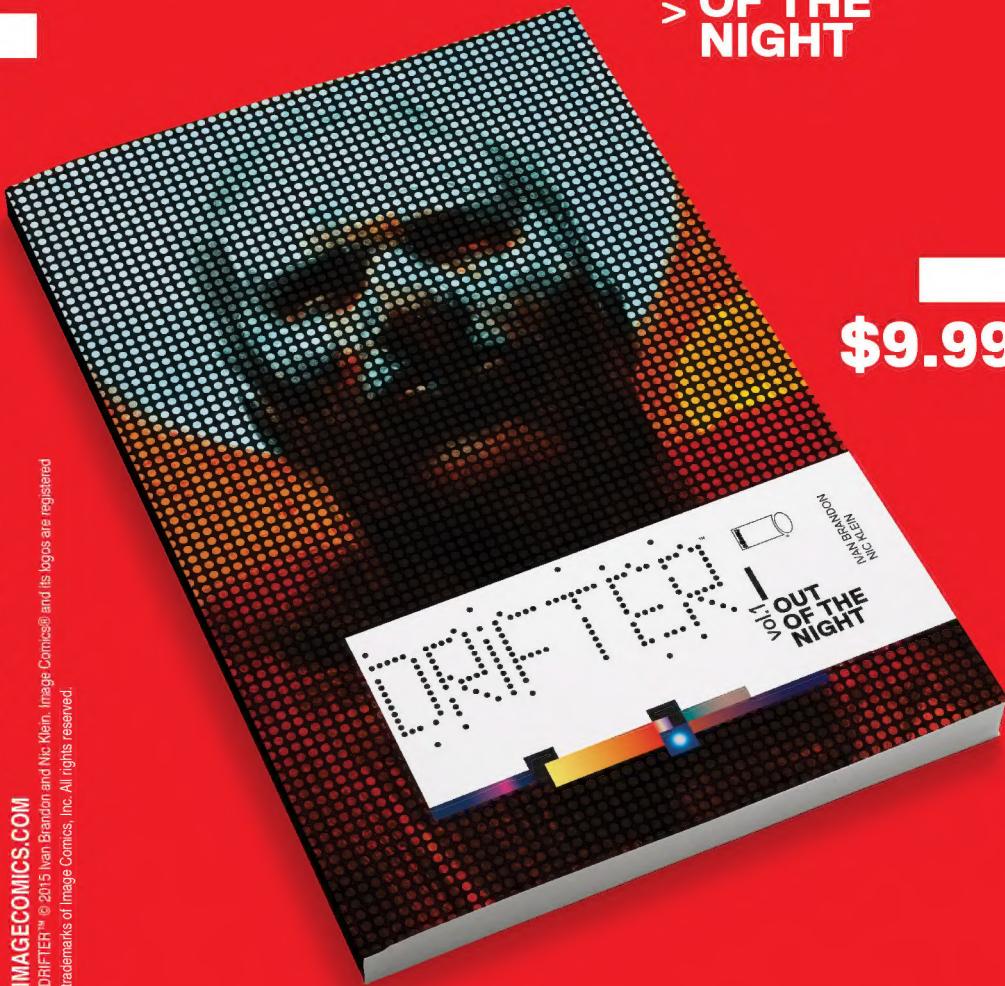
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OF THE
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"Crazy good and super gorgeous sci fi."

— Jason Aaron,
Southern Bastards, Thor

"A book you inhale, though it will likely burn
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